

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Pacini, Armando, Restaurant

other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 8 S. Sarah St. [n/a] not for publication

city or town St. Louis [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county St. Louis (Independent City) code 510 zip code 63108

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [])

Mark A Miles

07/01/05

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO

Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [])

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet []
- determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet []
- determined not eligible for the
National Register.
- removed from the
National Register
- other, explain
See continuation sheet []

Signature of the Keeper

Date

Pacini, Armando, Restaurant
St. Louis (independent city), Missouri

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		
		1	0
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
 COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

Current Functions
 vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 Late 19th/Early 20th Century Revivals

Materials
 foundation limestone
 walls brick

 roof asphalt
 other terra cotta

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Pacini, Armando, Restaurant
St. Louis (independent city), Missouri

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Ethnic Heritage: European

Periods of Significance

1928-1931

Significant Dates

1928

Significant Person(s)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Scatizzi, Louis/architect, builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository: Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.

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 St. Louis (independent city), Missouri

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

A. Zone 15 Easting 739 660 Northing 4280 060 B. Zone Easting Northing

C. Zone Easting Northing D. Zone Easting Northing

[] see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sect. 8: Carolyn Toft, Director; Sect. 7: Stacy Sone, Researcher

organization Landmarks Association of St. Louis date May 17, 2004

street & number 917 Locust St., 7th Floor telephone 314-421-6474

city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63101

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Rothschild Properties West End LLC

street & number 4746 McPherson, Suite 2C telephone _____

city or town St. Louis state MO zip code 63108

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

Pacini, Armando, Restaurant
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Summary

Armando Pacini's Restaurant is a two-story brick commercial/apartment building constructed in 1928 at 8 S. Sarah Street in St. Louis, Missouri. The building features terra cotta trim, beveled corners on the facade and a Spanish Mission-style parapet with terra cotta coping. Entrances in both corners are positioned in round arched openings outlined in terra cotta. Thin terra cotta columns with a rope design accent the edges of the beveled corners in the second story. Contrasting colored brick sills and outlined panels further decorate the second story. A lavish two-room restaurant interior is richly lined in wood wainscoting, booths and an elaborate mirrored bar. Patterned tin ceiling lines the restaurant space. The building is currently vacant and is littered with restaurant furniture and materials from the last occupant. Nearly all the original wood fixtures, however, remain intact. The exterior suffers some from new second-story windows, boarded display windows and replacement doors. Despite these alterations, the former restaurant retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Exterior

The five-bay facade faces west to S. Sarah Street (photos 1, 2). A center entrance bay with limestone quoins provides access to a stairway leading to the second-story apartments. The door is recent and the sidelights are boarded. Bays on each side of the entrance have two large boarded windows, each with two transoms. Boarded openings below the large windows match the size of the transoms. Although these bays flanking the center entrance bay are boarded, the openings and the original divisions between the windows remain intact. The southwest and northwest corners of the facade sit at an angle and each has a terra cotta-lined round arched entrance with a replacement door. Lumber currently surrounds the door in the southwest corner but the terra cotta is intact behind. Fluted terra cotta pilasters accent the outside edges of these beveled corners.

These terra cotta pilasters rise across the second story in the form of thin columns that appear twisted like a rope. At the roof level, the terra cotta columns support the base of a Spanish Mission-style parapet in each corner. In the second story of both beveled corners is a single window bay. These single windows as well as all other second-story windows

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are vinyl. The three window bays in the main portion of the facade have openings with contrasting colored brick lintels. Square limestone blocks mark the lintels' outside edges. Sills are also limestone with brackets. The window bay centered over the entrance is a short group of three windows boarded on the inside. Flanking window bays are three-part double-hung windows. Centered over each of the three window bays in the building's main wall is a decorative panel with square limestone blocks outlined in contrasting colored brick.

Spanish Mission-style parapets highlight the roofline. Each of the beveled corners is capped with a decorative parapet. A broader, curvy Mission parapet is centered on the facade. The parapet has terra cotta coping that outlines the facade and extends approximately six feet on the north and south facades. Diamond-shaped terra cotta medallions decorate the base of the Mission parapets.

The south facade (photos 1, 3) has only one opening in the lower story—a boarded segmental arched opening with a hole that had a vent at one time. Two other openings are brick-filled. The second story has three segmental arched window bays—two singles and one paired bay. One of the single windows boarded at the base appears to have been a door originally.

The first story of the north facade (photo 2) has a segmental arched window and a small rectangular window on one side of the brick flue and a boarded rectangular window on the other. A small shed roof overhang with an asphalt shingle roof shelters a stucco wall that may be a remnant of a 1970s alteration that once covered at least part of the first-story facade. The second story has two segmental arched window bays on one side of the flue and a paired segmental arched window on the other.

The east (rear) facade has a one-story brick wing built during the 1930s on its south end (photos 3, 4). This one-story section has a flat roof that supports HVAC equipment. A single segmental arched opening filled with glass blocks is on the east side of the wing (photo 4). On the north side of the one-story section is a vertical wood addition under a shed roof. A door opens on the east side of the addition. The main wall of the rear facade has five segmental arched openings (photo 4). The first bay (from the north) is a boarded segmental arched window behind a shed roof overhang with a latticework half-wall. The next two bays are boarded and hold vents. The fourth segmental arched bay is

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a recent door with a boarded transom. The fifth bay (located behind the wood addition) is a segmental arched window. The second-story rear has three segmental arched openings (one has a paired window) and a rectangular opening with a pair of windows. Slate shingles cover the wall across the southern third of the second story.

Interior

The first floor is divided into two main restaurant/bar spaces, both with tin ceilings, terrazzo floors and richly lined with dark wood. The southernmost room (photo 5) has built-in furniture (booths and cabinets with glass and mirror doors on the south wall) and wainscoting. A highly ornamented, floor to ceiling bar covers nearly the entire north wall in the second room (photo 6). Paired columns with richly carved capitals divide the bar into three parts. Decorative animal heads and a garland design extend across the top over a row of large, beveled mirrors. The front part of the bar, where patrons sit, has a paneled base with egg and dart trim. The opposite wall (south wall) has built-in dining booths and built-in cabinets with beveled oval mirrors. The kitchen is located in the building's one-story section. It is lined in white ceramic tile and has a tin ceiling. The walk-in refrigerator has a tile floor.

A project under the previous owner to create two additional rooms at the rear of the first story was never completed and did little permanent damage to the lavish interior. Some of the wainscoting was removed and set aside; unfinished drywall partitions were built across the back of each of the two main first-story rooms. The doors centered on the elevation and a single door at the rear open to stairs that access the apartments. The second story is divided into two spacious apartments featuring original plaster walls, wood floors and a few Mission-style original doors (photo 7). The Mission or Spanish Revival theme is repeated with the wide, decorative arch (photo 8) opening from the dining room into the living room facing the street and a smaller version between the hall and kitchen in the north apartment.

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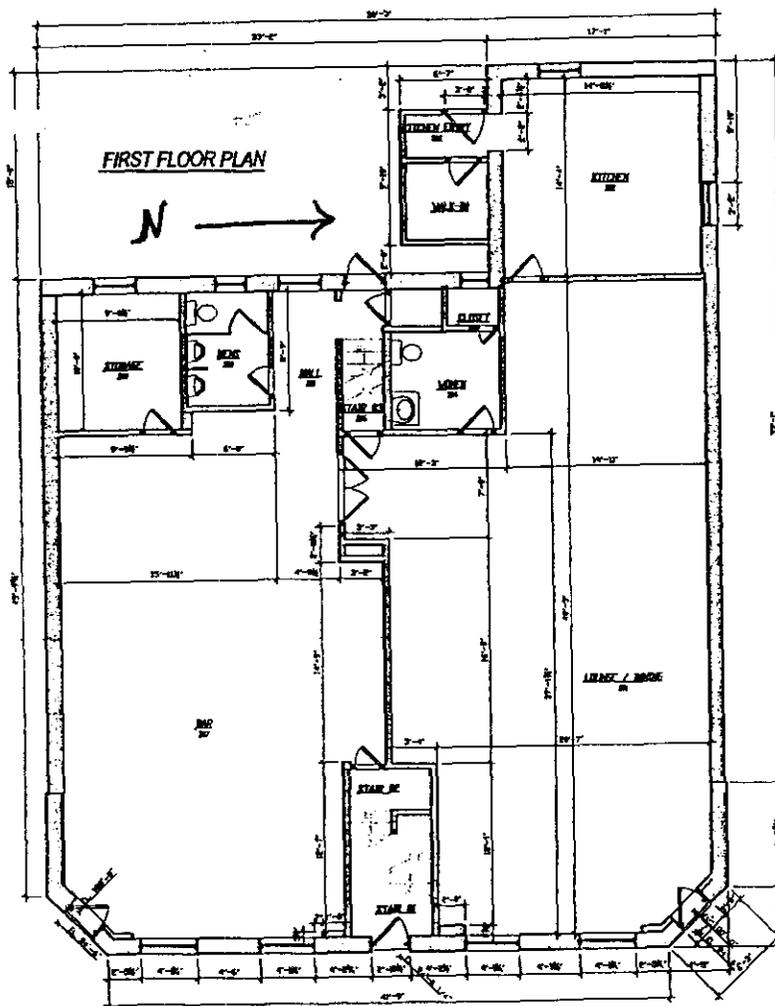
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Pacini, Armando, Restaurant
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Integrity

Nearly all the extensive original interior wood fixtures remain intact. The exterior suffers some from newer second-story windows, boarded display windows and replacement doors. Despite these alterations, the former Armando Pacini Restaurant retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Pacini Restaurant first floor plan.—Source: Fendler & Assoc., Inc, Architects, 2004



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Pacini, Armando, Restaurant
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Summary

The Armando Pacini Restaurant at 8 South Sarah Street in St. Louis, Missouri, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A with local significance in the area of ETHNIC HERITAGE: EUROPEAN. Relatively late arrivals in the mosaic of St. Louis immigration, Italians were far more dependent upon ethnic ties for lodging and employment than the dominant Germans and the second-tier Irish. By the early 20th Century, many jobs (including all brewery work, the largest source of employment) were restricted to citizens and union members. In addition, significant numbers of Italian immigrants were poorly educated or even illiterate which generally disqualified them from city patronage work. Nationally, saloons and/or restaurants provided both a social center and an important source of community leadership for first-generation Italians. The intertwined lives of restaurateur Armando Pacini, owner George Vaccarezza and architect/builder Louis Scatizzi thus epitomize an important chapter in the history of the Italian-American experience in St. Louis. Vaccarezza and Pacini, immigrants who arrived a generation apart, entered the local work force in one of the only upwardly mobile jobs open to working-class Italians: the neighborhood saloon, a compelling alternative to unskilled day labor in, for example, the local clay mines. In turn, second-generation Scatizzi utilized his high school education as a springboard to a profitable career as an architect/contractor. Although the building where their fortunes and lives intersected in 1928 was constructed in a polyglot section of the city, the principals followed the typical Italian-American practice of relying on each other in business transactions. With the exception of a few years' interruption in the early 1930s, Armando Pacini and his family operated the restaurant bearing his name for more than 60 years. The Armando Pacini Restaurant is not only significant as a physical representation of the larger story, but also is an excellent example of this neighborhood building type. Architect Scatizzi's interpretation of the popular Spanish Mission style featured light-filled living quarters above a restaurant and bar with a sumptuous, eclectic interior befitting the luxury to which Pacini's customers perhaps aspired. The few other Italian-owned restaurants from the 1920s that have been identified in St. Louis have been substantially altered. The period of significance is from 1928 when the business which the partnership made possible was established in the newly constructed building through 1931, when Armando Pacini temporarily surrendered proprietorship of the restaurant early in the Great Depression.

Background

In the decade between 1880 and 1890, St. Louis' population rose from 350,318 to 451,770. Seventy-five percent of the total was native-born—a fact touted by many local

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boosters as evidence that St. Louis had become an exemplary "American" city as well as the fourth largest in the country. The percentage of German-born residents had dropped to 15%, Irish-born to 5%. Blacks represented 6% of the population. For the first time there were enough Italian-Americans (about 1,500 scattered throughout the city) to be statistically significant at .25%. Although local population figures would not increase dramatically due to the "New Immigration" of the late 19th and early 20th century, Italian immigration into the city did accelerate enough to have a lasting cultural impact.

In the single decade after unification of the peninsula in 1861, total population in Italy increased by one-fourth. Soon, overpopulation and agricultural depression, coupled with poor living and working conditions, forced entire districts to migrate or face starvation. Until 1890, most Italian emigrants (predominately skilled craftsman from the northern precincts) chose to resettle in Europe and South America. But from the last decade of the 19th century until World War I, the heaviest emigration was from the southern parts of Italy to the United States. The Italian government actually encouraged many young men to emigrate, not only to ease the problem of overpopulation but also to channel the money they earned back into the Italian economy.¹

Choosing to live with others from their own village or province of origin, the majority of these newcomers in St. Louis clustered in two enclaves. One area ("Little Italy") grew up in the rundown 4th and 5th Wards near downtown where dilapidated houses had been converted to immigrant tenements housing four to eight men per room.² The other growing concentration, "Dago Hill" in the newly developing 24th Ward in Fairmont Heights or Cheltenham, was adjacent to the vast clay mines and furnaces that provided a primary source of employment for the newcomers. (The manufacture of fire brick, terra cotta and glazed tile, one of the most important industries in St. Louis, offered steady but unskilled work from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. with no opportunity for advancement.) Although a slightly better choice of residence than "Little Italy," the Hill had no sidewalks, public transit, utility hookups, streetlights or (until the fall of 1914) sewers.³ At the opening of the 20th century, "Little Italy" was populated almost exclusively by Sicilians; those pioneering the Hill were predominately Lombards.

¹ Carolyn Hewes Toft, ed. *The Hill: The Ethnic Heritage of an Urban Neighborhood*. (St. Louis: Landmarks Association of St. Louis, second printing 1980), p. 5.

² Ruth Crawford. *The Immigrant in St. Louis: A Survey*. (St. Louis: n. p., 1916), p. 31.

³ Crawford, p. 21.

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Early 20th century residents of these two districts and smaller colonies of Italian settlement such as the one near Sarah and Laclede described below tended to maintain tight social and business networks dependent almost exclusively upon point of origin within Italy. This pattern departed from the experiences of a handful of earlier compatriots who had quickly dispersed throughout the city and become assimilated. Giovanni Schiavo in *The Italians in Missouri* published in 1929 provided a full list of the thirty-seven "mostly Genoese" Italian surnames he culled from the 1848 St. Louis City Directory.⁴ Schiavo then offered his appraisal of their descendants' success and loss of ethnicity: "Their children and grandchildren [the Genoese] enjoy enviable positions not only in the economic life of the city, but in the social as well. They may be called the aristocracy of the Italians of St. Louis, notwithstanding the fact that some of them do not consider themselves any longer Italian."⁵

The degree to which some of the newer Italian immigrants constituted "a desirable element" had for some years been a topic of much discussion outside and even within the subject community. Organized in 1898, the Italian Republican League rapidly enlisted 400 members interested in "the betterment of social relations between the Italian-speaking residents of the city" along with improving the immigrants' prosperity.⁶ That task became even more pressing after the Federal Naturalization Law of 1906, which limited full citizenship to those twenty-one years or over with documents proving five years of continuous residency in the United States plus one year of residence in the State of Missouri. Two witnesses, citizens only, who had known the applicant for at least five years must accompany the applicant who could except to pay \$5 and wait for several years before the process was reviewed. Onerous (offices were only open during work hours) and rather expensive, this draconian reform attempted to end the widespread practice of selling citizenship for a small fee during the week or so prior to an election.

⁴ Giovanni (Ermenegildo) Schavio. *The Italians in Missouri*. (Chicago and New York: Italian American Publishing Co., reprint 1975), pp. 51-52.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 53. Schiavo was the author of several ethnic studies starting with *The Italians in Chicago: A Study in Americanization* in 1928. Subsequent titles in addition to the Missouri volume (published in 1929 by the Italian American Publishing Company of New York) include *The Italians in America Before the Civil War* from 1934 and *Italian American History: The Italian Contribution to the Catholic Church in America* vols. I and II, 1947 and 1949.

⁶ William Hyde and Howard L. Conard, editors. *Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis. A Compendium of History and Biography for Ready Reference*. (New York, Louisville, St. Louis: The Southern History Company, 1899), p. 1113, Vol. 3.

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These requirements also solidified formal and informal sponsorship of newcomers by those already acclimated to their new home.⁷

"A lot of people opened their homes to immigrants from Italy. They called them boarders. For a small fee of like \$5 or so a week, the women would cook for them, wash their clothes, iron and everything."⁸ Sponsorship could also include a job in a city where class, race and country of origin set sharp limits on housing and employment. Although breweries employed the largest number of men in the city, this traditionally German/Austrian work had become highly unionized with union membership limited to American citizens. "All of our employees are classified as gas or steam fitters, engineers, brewers, malsters, bottlers, etc and all belong to unions. The very large majority have been with us for a number of years, many of them for thirty-five to forty years."⁹ A few Italian cobblers had been accepted into the shoe industry by 1900, but the vast majority of those employees were American-born. Car foundries, a major source of low-paid work for Negroes, pitted those employees against their nearest competitors—recent immigrants from Eastern Europe.¹⁰ Work for the street department was the most common patronage opportunity for naturalized immigrants; but even here, the Germans, the Irish and most notably the Lebanese had captured more jobs than the Italians "who apply in great numbers, but fail in their educational tests."¹¹

John Briggs in *An Italian Passage: Immigrants to Three American Cities, 1890-1930* (Yale University Press) concluded that the "first cores around which an Italian colony solidified were the boarding house and the saloon."¹² What was true in his sample (Rochester, Utica and Kansas City) seems to hold up in St. Louis. In a 1911 visit to the emerging Italian stronghold called "Dago Hill," local sociologist Amy Bernardy noted eighteen saloons where "an incredible amount of beer is consumed."¹³ But corner saloons offered more than beer: "To the hard working immigrants the neighborhood

⁷ Crawford, p. 69. No official welcome was provided immigrants at Union Station until 1913 when the Young Men's Christian Association hired a "foreign" secretary to meet immigrant trains and initiated classes to help the immigrant earn citizenship.

⁸ *The Hill: The Ethnic Heritage of an Urban Neighborhood*, p. 10.

⁹ Crawford, p. 35.

¹⁰ Crawford, p. 37.

¹¹ Crawford, pp. 38 and 68.

¹² Briggs, p. 141.

¹³ Gary Ross Mormino. *Immigrants on the Hill: Italian-Americans in St. Louis 1882-1982*. (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1986), p. 128.

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saloon served as a social refuge, a place to which laborers gravitated after a long day's work to enjoy the friendship of *paesani*.¹⁴

Saloons, a growth industry, also offered entry-level employment in a familial setting dealing with customers in the native tongue. Prudent, hard-working young men such as George Vaccarezza and Armando Pacini could quickly gain experience, achieve more responsibility and move up in a white-collar profession of considerable standing within the immigrant community—a compelling alternative to the menial, low-paying jobs in the clay pits or brick kilns of “Dago Hill.” Briggs in *An Italian Passage* confirms that saloonkeepers were, in fact, an important source of community leadership for the first generation.¹⁵

Elaboration

Born August 18, 1889 in Pistoia, a picturesque Tuscan city located north of Florence, teenager Armando Pacini arrived in St. Louis in 1907, a year after the stringent naturalization law took effect. Three years later the 1910 U.S. Census listed his employment as a porter in a saloon, documenting Pacini's early entrance into the career that would last a long lifetime. Young Armando boarded with saloon proprietor Antonio Pracchia (age 38, an 1881 immigrant), Pracchia's wife Josephine (also Italian-born) and their two Missouri-born children plus Caroline Guaspari—an eighteen-year-old servant who arrived in St. Louis the same year as Pacini. (More likely a sponsored boarder than a “servant,” Caroline was probably earning a weekly stipend to help with the cooking, washing and ironing.) Caroline's brother, alternately listed as Pellegrino or Peter Guaspari, would arrive later and become momentarily apprenticed with the Pacini family in business ventures. All seven lived upstairs above the Anton Pracchia saloon in a two-story building from 1895 located at the southeast corner of Laclede and South Sarah (Building A, see figure 1).

Residents of the immediate neighborhood were a diverse collection of renters. Around the corner at 16A South Sarah lived the well-established Vaccarezza family headed by Italian-born George, his wife Emma and the couple's two Missouri-born children. George Vaccarezza (an 1883 immigrant) was also the proprietor of a saloon. Financial

¹⁴ *ibid*, pp. 127-128.

¹⁵ Briggs, p. 115.

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rewards within twenty years of his arrival in St. Louis can be measured by prescient investment in neighborhood real estate. In 1905, at the age of forty, he purchased Building A and two flanking lots for \$40,000. In 1914, Vaccarezza commissioned a one-story structure at 4058-60 Laclede (Building B, see figure 1) for Western Union on the site immediately east of the corner property. Fourteen years later he would finance a splendid new restaurant for Armando Pacini on the lot to the south.

Within less than a decade of immigrating in 1907, Pacini had acquired enough financial resources to fit out and open Pacini's Café in a circa 1889 Queen Anne-style building (Building C, Figure 1) at the eastern end of the same block on Laclede. The 1916 City Directory lists both his home and business ("saloon") address as 3912 Laclede (Building at 3910-12 Laclede, NR 5/30/2003). More information about the growing Pacini family was gleaned from the 1920 Census, released a year after the onset of Prohibition stunned the Italian-American community. A total of 9,067 Italian-born residents were reported in a city (then ranked sixth) of 772,897 inhabitants. Some immigrants were illiterate; many spoke only Italian; as many as 75% had become American citizens.¹⁶ Naturalized in 1916, "saloonkeeper" and former bachelor Pacini was enumerated in 1920 with his Missouri-born wife Alma; so far, the union had produced three daughters. The entire family including a relative named Louis Pacini lived above Armando's establishment at 3912 Laclede.

Prohibition took a heavy toll on the local brewing industry, small businessmen and community life—especially the Italians who, according to Neil Primm, considered it "an insult." Although illegal wine and other alcoholic beverages were rumored to have been produced in basements all over the Hill, most of it was for home consumption.¹⁷ Few legitimate neighborhood saloons on the Hill or other locations had access to or the taste for either home-produced or bootlegged wares. Former customers deserted Pacini's to find alternative sources.

The 1921 City Directory still listed "drinks" available at Armando Pacini's place at 3912 Laclede; but by 1922, the printed page had caught up with grim reality. "Soft drinks" now accurately described the only beverages offered. By 1923, Armando had moved his growing family several blocks west to an apartment at 4574 Laclede. Although the family remained at that address in the 1924 City Directory, Armando apparently was unemployed. Not for long. The following year's directory noted his new job in real

¹⁶ *The Italians in Missouri*, p. 26.

¹⁷ James Neil Primm. *Lion of the Valley: St. Louis, Missouri*. (Boulder: Pruett Pub. Co., 1981), p. 443.

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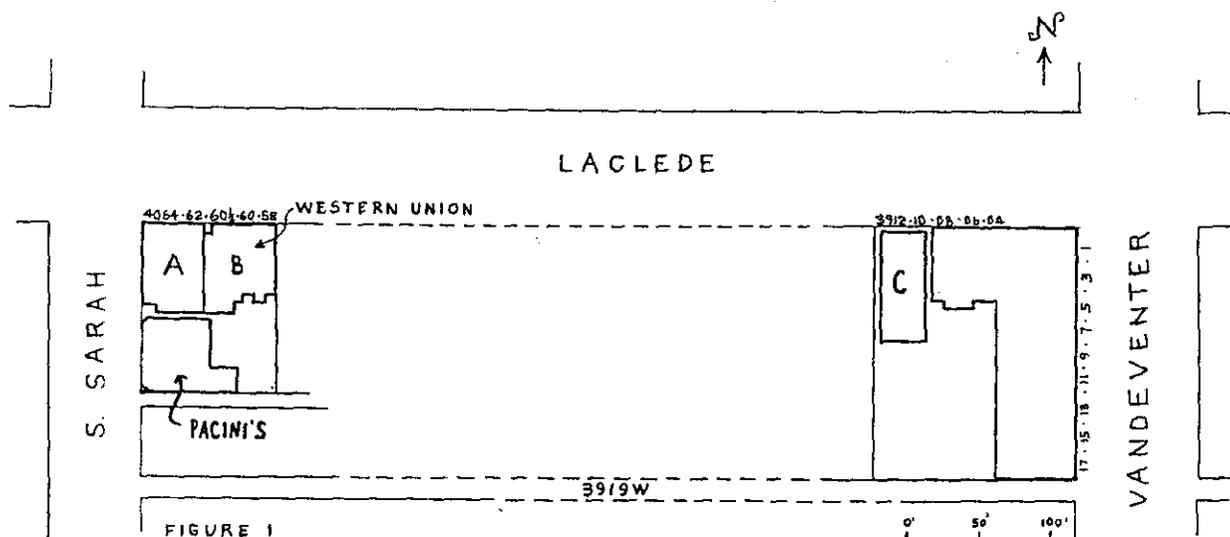
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estate; both 1926 and 1927 City Directories list him as a “salesman,” presumably in real estate. But by the time information was gathered for the 1928 edition, Pacini had managed to reopen a restaurant back in Building A at the pivotal southeast corner of Laclede and Sarah.

Figure 1: Armando Pacini in St. Louis. Drawn by Pat Hays Baer, 2005.



ARMANDO PACINI IN ST. LOUIS

Meanwhile, former neighbor and current landowner George Vaccarezza had retired and moved his residence from South Sarah to Natural Bridge Road in Normandy. Somehow, he decided the moment was right to risk a business partnership with an old acquaintance and a promising young architect/contractor. A building permit was issued to owner George Vaccarezza on April 9, 1928 for a “two-story tenement and store” estimated to cost \$15,000. The architect selected for the project was Louis Scatizzi, a dashing young contractor pictured the following year among successful Italians featured in *Italians in Missouri* (figure 2).¹⁸

¹⁸ *The Italians in Missouri*, p. 145.

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Pacini, Armando, Restaurant
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Figure 2: Louis Scatizzi



Born in St. Louis in 1902 of Tuscan parents, Scatizzi graduated from high school in 1921—a level of education not usually reached by the children of Italian immigrants. With training in drafting, he found his first employment drawing automobiles and refrigerators. Somehow, he attracted the attention of the influential real estate czar Albert Wenzlick who became his patron. (In addition to general real estate, development and finance, Wenzlick was President of the Columbia Building & Loan Association, President of the Excelsior Brick Company and owner of the central fifteen-acre portion of White Haven—the former estate of President Ulysses and Julia Dent Grant (NR 1981, NHL 1989).

After building his paternal home at 6216 South Drive in Pine Lawn, St. Louis County, Scatizzi decided in 1926 to become a contractor offering design/build services from that residence. Scatizzi, in the three years before *Italians in Missouri* was published, had already received commissions for several private residences, a three-story apartment house for twelve families, several stores and the Savoy Court Apartments at 4900 Palm Street. “For a young man of twenty-seven to achieve such a position in such a short period of time, Mr. Scatizzi has done very well.”¹⁹

¹⁹ *The Italians in Missouri*, p. 198.

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Pacini, Armando, Restaurant
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Figure 2: Louis Scatizzi



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Pacini, Armando, Restaurant
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

The accomplished Spanish Mission style building he designed for George Vaccarezza and Armando Pacini at 8-10 South Sarah combined first-floor commercial with upstairs rental, a time-honored but here updated building type in St. Louis neighborhoods. The main staircase to the two light-filled apartments is centered in the symmetrical front elevation. Customers entered the saloon from the beveled northernmost bay, the restaurant from a slightly more elaborate one at the south. Circulation between the two spaces occurred in the eastern half of the first floor behind the main staircase. First floor interiors are distinguished by an intact patterned tin ceiling, wood wainscoting, built-in booths and an elaborate floor-to-ceiling mirrored bar complete with paired columns with richly carved capitals, decorative animal heads plus a garland design and egg and dart trim. Upstairs in the residential space, the Spanish Mission theme of the exterior is acknowledged with several decorative original doors and the wide arches opening from the dining room into the living room.

Lavishly detailed for a neighborhood establishment, the Armando Pacini Restaurant opened in the face of Prohibition just months before the onset of the Depression. The 1930 U.S. Census documented the birth of three more daughters and two sons in the Pacini family; the absence of a radio in the Depression-era household at 4574 Laclede was also noted. Suddenly in 1931, for reasons not yet discovered, the entire Pacini family was simply not listed in the City Directory—not at a home address, not at the restaurant on South Sarah where Louis Arbutti was named as proprietor. In the 1933 edition, two young Pacini daughters identified as tobacco workers were listed in an apartment on The Hill. “A fourteenth birthday means a work certificate and a farewell to studies,” wrote Ruth Crawford. “In their place, the little Italian girl begins sorting the great tobacco leaves.”²⁰

Although they earned only five to ten dollars a week, income from the tobacco factory helped sustain many a family including Pacini's. By 1934, a year after the repeal of Prohibition, Armando Pacini had regained proprietorship of his restaurant. Evidence of continued financial strain, however, can be surmised from the family's move first to Belleville, Illinois, then to Douglass Street on St. Louis' north side and finally in 1937 to the apartment 6A South Sarah above the restaurant. (In what may have been still ahead of the trend in 1937, Armando and Alma's oldest daughter Angeline is identified as a waiter.) Prosperity returned. Within a few years, Pacini was able to open a second

²⁰ *The Immigrant in St. Louis*, Studies in Social Economics. (St. Louis: n.p. 1916), pp. 44-45.

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Pacini, Armando, Restaurant
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

establishment a few blocks away. The 1940 City Directory lists Armando Pacini Liquors at 10 North Newstead. The family including daughter Marie, a waiter, still lived above Armando Pacini's Restaurant on Sarah.

Gradually, the children married and moved on. After WWII, Pacini moved to Ferguson in St. Louis County, but continued with his son Herman to oversee both businesses in the old neighborhood.²¹ They were still run by members of his family at the time of his death at age 91 in April 1981. Armando left six daughters, three sons, a brother still living in Pistoia, Italy, 26 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

Although several other Italian-owned restaurants from the 1920s have survived, most have been substantially altered or are located in different buildings. Research to date has not unearthed another site where the original owner, architect and proprietor were all Italian-Americans. Armando Pacini's Restaurant exists today as a valuable example of an important building type within the context of Italian-American cultural history in St. Louis. Many current residents of the neighborhood still identify the establishment by its original name. The new owner plans to renovate the two apartments and reopen a restaurant.

²¹ Carolyn Hewes Toft interview with Herman Pacini. May 2, 2005.

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Pacini, Armando, Restaurant
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

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Pacini, Armando, Restaurant
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_____. Interview with Herman Pacini. May 2, 2005.

U. S. Census 1910, 1920, 1930.

Boundary Description

The nominated building is known as 8 South Sarah Street on City Block 3919W in St. Louis, Missouri. The building is legally known by the City Assessor's Office as parcel numbers 39190403606 (second story residential) and 39190403607 (first story commercial). The building is bound by South Sarah Street on the west, Laclede Avenue on the north, South Vandeventer Avenue on the east and an alley between Laclede and Forest Park Boulevard on the south. The property is lot B of the Welch Ulmer Subdivision. The nominated building is indicated by a dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Armando Pacini's Restaurant Boundary Map."

Boundary Justification

The nominated parcel includes all of the property historically associated with Armando Pacini's Restaurant.

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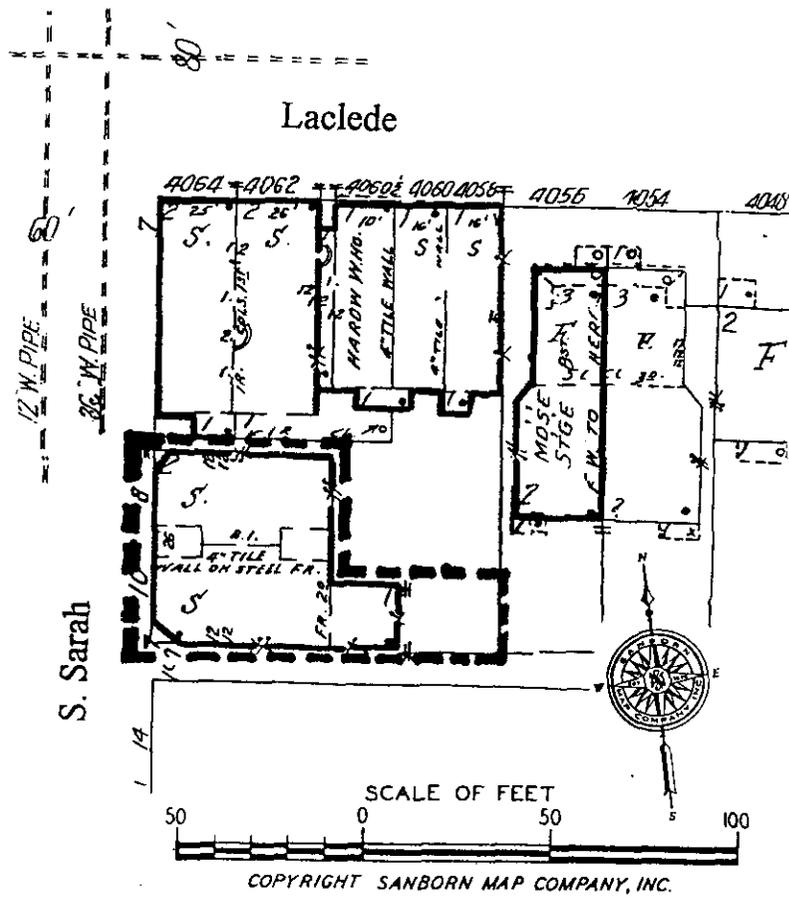
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Section map Page 17

Pacini, Armando, Restaurant
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Armando Pacini's Restaurant Boundary Map

Source: Sanborn Map Company, v. 5S, plate 79, 1969.



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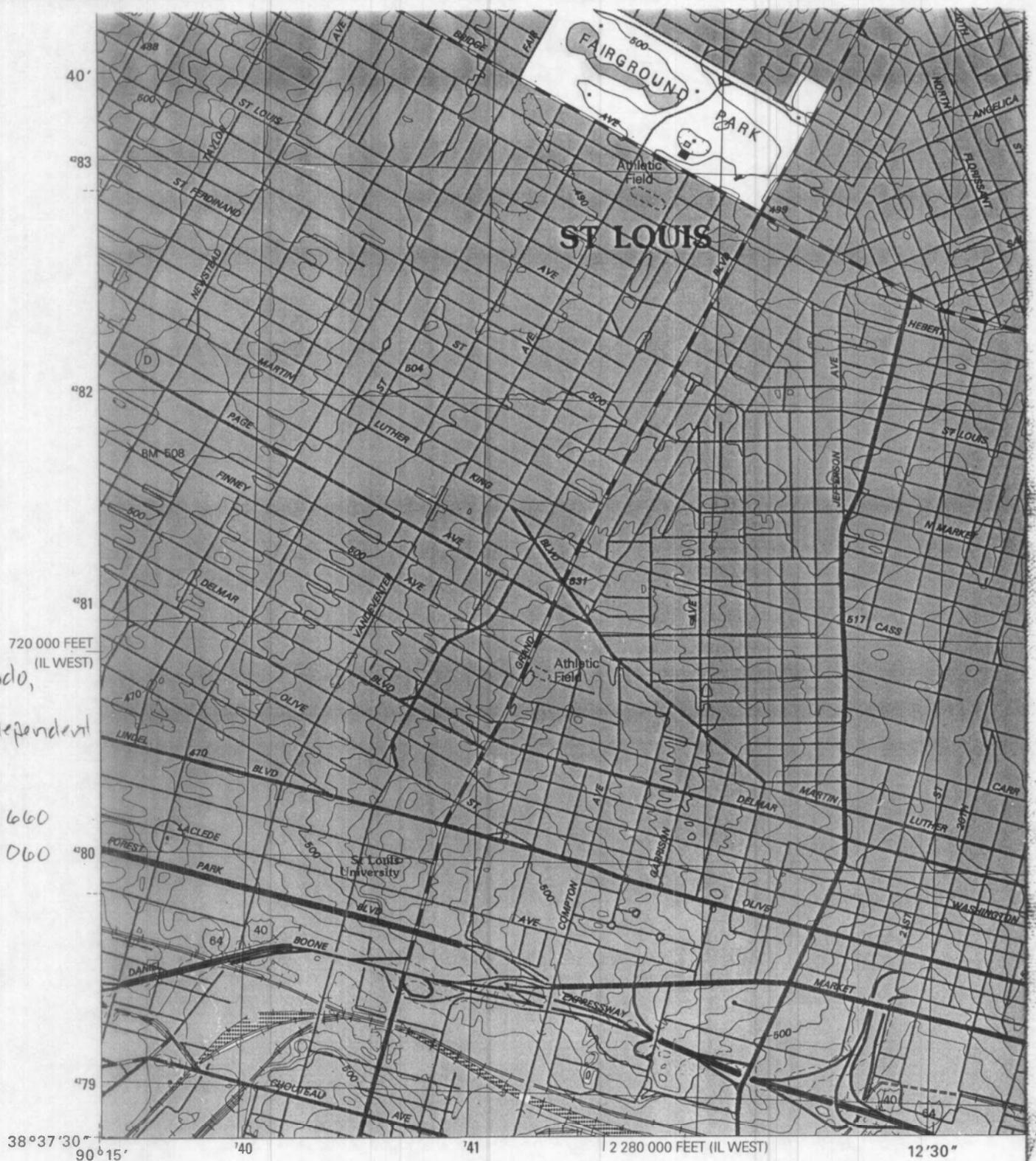
Section owners Page 18

Pacini, Armando, Restaurant
St. Louis [Independent City], Missouri

Owners of record in City of St. Louis Property Assessor's Database:

Property Address: 8 South Sarah Street, St. Louis, MO

Owner Information: Rothschild Properties West End LLC, 4746 McPherson, STE 2C, St. Louis, MO,
63108.



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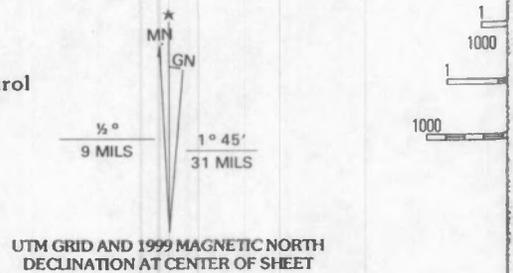
Produced by the United States Geological Survey

Topography compiled 1952. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1993 and other sources. Photinspected using imagery dated 1998; no major culture or drainage changes observed. PLSS and survey control current as of 1954. Boundaries, other than corporate, verified 1999

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 15 10 000-foot ticks: Illinois (west zone) and Missouri (east zone) Coordinate Systems of 1983

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software

Contours that conflict with revised planimetry are dashed
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map



UTM GRID AND 1999 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



Pacini, Armando, Restaurant
St. Louis (ind. city), MO

Stacy Sone

4/04

Landmarks Assoc. of St. Louis

View to NE

1 of 5



Pacini, Armando, Restaurant
St. Louis (ind. city), MO

Stacy Sore

4/04

Landmarks Assoc. of St. Louis

View to SE

2 of 5



Pacini, Armando, Restaurant
St. Louis (ind. city), MO
Stacy Sore
4/04
Landmarks Assoc. of St. Louis
view to NW
3 of 5



Pacini, Armando, Restaurant
St. Louis (ind. city), mo

Stacy Sone

4/04

Landmarks Assoc. of St. Louis

view to SW

4 of 5



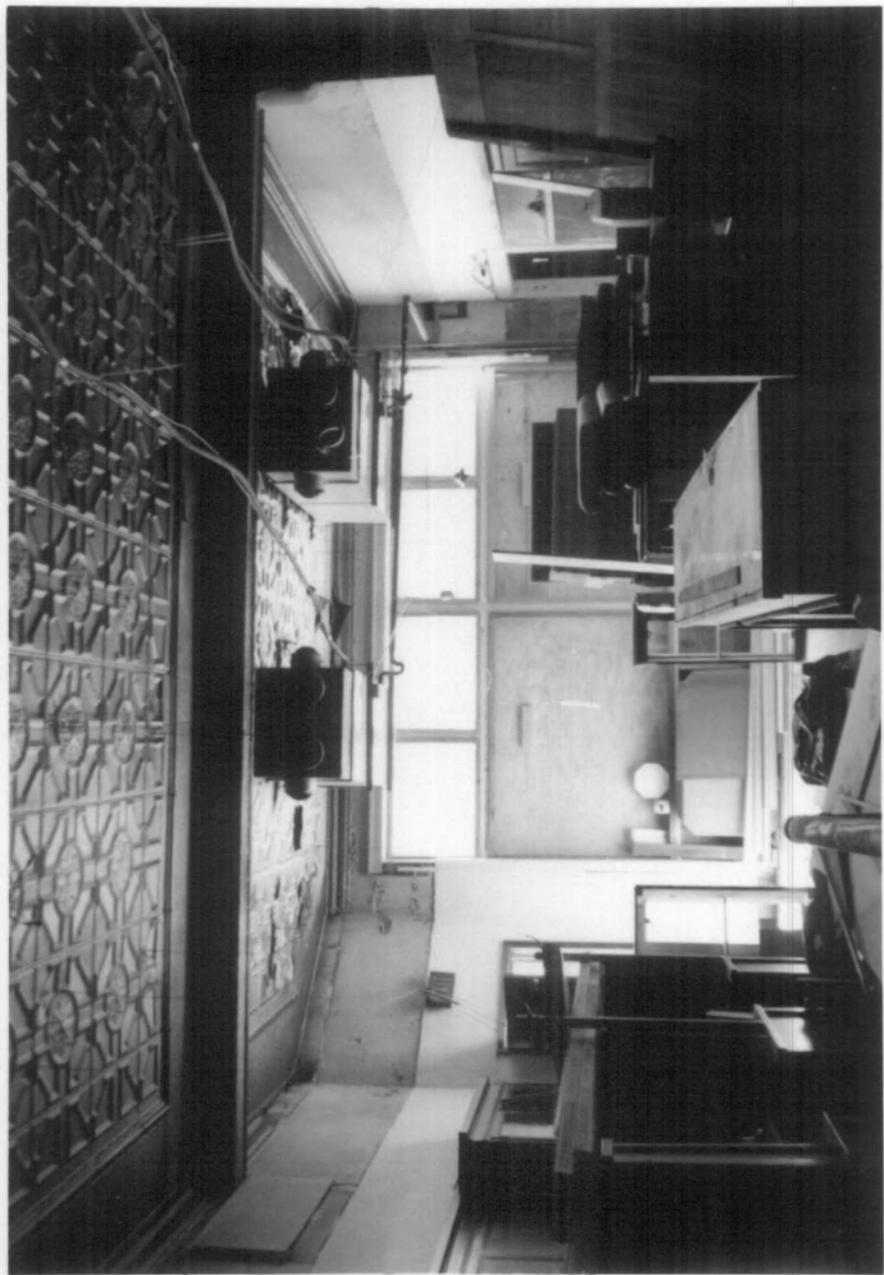
Pacini, Armando, Restaurant
St. Louis (ind. city), mo

Stacy Sone

4/10/04
Landmarks Assoc. of St. Louis

view to W

5 of 5



EXTRA

PHOTOS

